

The world of state and local justice information systems: Lessons from the NAJIS Conference

By **ISE Bloggers**

Created **09/29/2011 - 17:48**

Posted by [ISE Bloggers](#) ^[1] on Thursday, September 29, 2011

- [Subscribe](#) ^[2] ^[3]

Last week, PM-ISE attended the 2011 National Association for Justice Information Systems (NAJIS) Conference in New Orleans. The conference was primarily attended by representatives from prosecution, law enforcement, probation and pre-trial services, and support organizations from many different state, county, and local jurisdictions. Many discussions centered on the ability of participants' offices to continue to evolve and enhance their information processing needs.

Complicated systems

We learned a lot about what's going on in the world of the state and local justice information systems today. It's a world where a seemingly infinite number of ongoing point-to-point interactions are required between state courts, attorneys, law enforcement, detention facilities, probation and pretrial services, document, evidence and financial managers. And that's within a single jurisdiction.

Multiply that by 3000+ counties and 50 states, factor in the need for inter-state, inter-government, and inter-agency transactions; add in decentralized, proprietary data repositories and incompatible, unsupported, and obsolete applications; and then place an end user in a building with constricted bandwidth and you get an idea of the heroic level of effort occurring everyday in the world of state and local justice information systems.

One interesting success story we enjoyed hearing was how the growth and utilization of video-based depositions and court appearances continues to reduce the travel costs of state and local justice communities.

Impacts from funding cuts

Although successes in the development of new individual case management systems continue to improve the efficiency of selected jurisdictions, continued funding cuts will continue to have a negative impact on the development of new systems for years to come in many jurisdictions.

One story we heard a lot was how some prosecutors and law enforcement officials are concerned that sharply decreased budgets may lock them into old technologies that will render their organizations unattractive to new employees. Imagine a recent college law school grad sitting down on their first day of their new job at a state's attorneys office to a green-screen case management system. That new employee is now forced to spend time (maybe years) gaining experience and expertise on a tool will make them LESS marketable in the workforce a few years down the road.

Much to be done

We feel that there is much to be done with regard to real-time interaction between federal, state, and local

court justice information systems. Several participants detailed stories of success associated with individual interstate information-sharing agreements (Delaware-Maryland, Arizona-Colorado, etc). Owners and operators of justice systems continue to struggle with time-consuming, inefficient and expensive information-sharing protocols. The continued development and execution of singular state-to-state, federal-to-state, state-to-district connections point to the need for federated information-sharing solutions that will collectively support these offices.

Connect with ISE: Follow us on [Twitter](#)^[4]. Comment on [Facebook](#)^[5]. Sign up for [email updates](#)^[6]. Send us an [email](#)^[7].

Thu, 09/29/2011

Tags: [information sharing](#)^[8] [law enforcement](#)^[9] [mission partners](#)^[10] [SBU interoperability](#)^[11] [state & local gov](#)^[12] [technical standards](#)^[13]

[Previous Post](#)^[14]

[Next Post](#)^[15]

[information sharing](#) [law enforcement](#) [mission partners](#) [SBU interoperability](#) [state & local gov](#) [technical standards](#)

Source URL: <http://www.ise.gov/blog/ise-bloggers/world-state-and-local-justice-information-systems-lessons-najis-conference-0>

Links:

[1] <http://www.ise.gov/users/ise-bloggers>

[2] <http://www.ise.gov/iseblog/feed>

[3] http://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USODNIISE/subscriber/new?topic_id=USODNIISE_27

[4] <http://www.twitter.com/shareandprotect>

[5] <http://www.facebook.com/informationsharingenvironment>

[6] <http://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USODNIISE/subscriber/new>

[7] <http://www.ise.gov/contact>

[8] <http://www.ise.gov/category/free-tags/information-sharing>

[9] <http://www.ise.gov/category/free-tags/law-enforcement>

[10] <http://www.ise.gov/category/free-tags/mission-partners>

[11] <http://www.ise.gov/category/free-tags/sbu-interoperability>

[12] <http://www.ise.gov/category/free-tags/state-local-gov>

[13] <http://www.ise.gov/category/free-tags/technical-standards>

[14] <http://www.ise.gov/blog/timothy-h-edgar/bostons-new-advanced-cyber-security-center-launches>

[15] <http://www.ise.gov/blog/ise-bloggers/social-media-and-law-enforcement-tweeting-front-line>